

that have not been audited by the State Auditor, that should be audited at an early date, and the further fact that the funds in the General Revenue are exhausted; and the further fact that it seems to be but fair that the Department to be audited, if in possession of separate funds should bear the expense of auditing its own affairs, creates an emergency and public necessity that the Constitutional Rule that all bills should be read on three separate days in the House should be suspended, and that said Act should take effect at once, which is so enacted.

Approved April 25, 1931.
Effective April 25, 1931.

[NOTE: H. B. No. 688 passed the House by a vote of 106 yeas, 4 nays; passed the Senate by a vote of 31 yeas, 0 nays.]

CREATING STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.

H. B. No. 844.]

CHAPTER 80.

An Act to create a State Commission for the Blind to prepare and maintain a register of those blind persons living in the State of Texas in which is shown their condition, cause of blindness, and capacity for education and industrial training; to set up a bureau of information and industrial aid for the blind; to assist other agencies in developing home industries among the blind; to aid in furnishing books, material and tools for rehabilitation of the blind; to devise other means of helping them; to adopt such measures as may be expedient for the prevention and cure of blindness, and empower such Commission to receive and expend donations to carry out the purposes of this Act, providing for the appointment thereof, and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. That there is hereby created and established the State Commission for the Blind consisting of three members, one a graduate of the Texas School for the Blind and two others appointed by the Governor to serve for a term of three years, or until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified; provided, that of the first members appointed hereunder, one shall serve for one year, one for two years, one for three years. No paid employee or Board member of any agency carrying on work for the blind shall be eligible for appointment. Members of the Commission for the Blind shall serve without compensation but shall receive their necessary traveling and other expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties. The Commission for the Blind shall annually elect from its members a chairman, and a secretary who shall also act as treasurer.

SEC. 2. The State Commission for the Blind shall maintain a Bureau of Information, the object of which shall be to aid the blind whose training is not otherwise provided for, in finding

employment, in developing home industries among the blind, and in marketing their products. The Commission shall in its discretion furnish materials, tools and books for the use as a means in rehabilitating such persons, and it may establish workshops and salesrooms, and shall have authority to use any receipts or earnings that accrue from the operation of industrial schools, salesrooms or workshops as provided in this Chapter, but detailed statement of receipts or earnings and expenditures shall be made monthly to the Auditor of the State. Through the employment of teachers the Commission may give instruction to adult blind persons in their homes; provided that it shall not undertake the permanent support or maintenance of any blind person. The Commission may also register cases of persons whose eyesight is seriously defective or who are likely to become visually handicapped or blind, and to take such measure, in cooperation with other authorities, as it may deem advisable for the prevention of blindness or conservation of eyesight, and in appropriate cases, for the education of children and for the vocational guidance of adults having seriously defective sight. The Commission may receive gifts, bequests, or devises from individuals, associations or corporations, and may expend them in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. The State Commission for the Blind may appoint and fix the compensation of an executive secretary and such other workers as may be necessary to make effective the purposes of this Act within the appropriations provided.

SEC. 4. The Commission shall make a detailed report to the Legislature by January 1st of each biennium in which it convenes, showing all appropriations received and how the same have been expended, and covering its activities and accomplishments and making recommendations therein for the further improvement of the conditions of the blind in the State.

SEC. 5. The fact that there is no appropriate agency of this State to assist the adult blind and the further fact that there is no provision made for the conservation of eyesight, creates an emergency and an imperative public necessity demanding the suspension of the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each House and said Rule is hereby suspended, and this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Approved April 25, 1931.

Effective 90 days after adjournment.

[NOTE: H. B. No. 844 passed the House by a viva voce vote; passed the Senate by a viva voce vote.]